

- *Test Number 2*
- *Reading*

## Part 1. Australia's Exports

*Read the passage below and answer Questions 1 - 5 on pages 28 to 29.*

The pattern of change in Australia's export trade reveals, much about the changing focus of the exploitation of Australia's resources. From about 1830 wool replaced the products of whaling and sealing as the dominant industry and the biggest export. Its supremacy in Australia's export trade was unrivalled for over a century, notwithstanding the sharp but temporary decline in the Depression of the 1890s. It was commonly quoted and quite true to say that 'Australia rode on the sheep's back'; wool production reached a peak of 800,000 tonnes in 1971 (Figure 1).

In recent years, however, wool sales have become an area of deep concern in the Australian economy. As can be seen from Figure 2, pastoral exports generally (wool, meat, skins and hides, dairy products), once responsible for over 60 per cent of Australia's export trade, steadily declined as a percentage of total exports in the period 1952 to 1976. Since then they have stabilised at a comparatively low level (25 per cent). In contrast, Figure 3 shows that other agricultural exports (wheat, fruit, vegetables, sugar) have remained fairly stable at around 18 per cent of total exports in the last three decades, though 1960, 1964 and 1972 were better years.

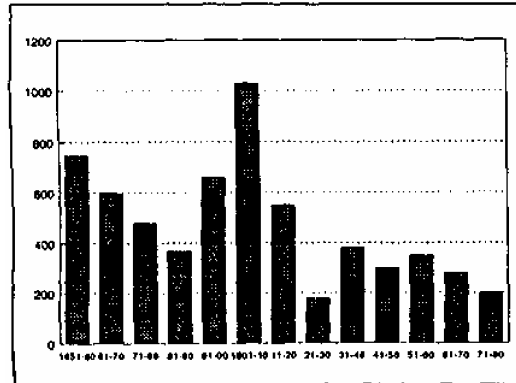
Mineral exports from Australia present a different picture. Gold was the first mineral exported from Australia in quantity, and brought great and sudden wealth to the nation's economy. Figure 4 traces gold production from its discovery in New South Wales and Victoria in 1851. In the first decade Australia produced almost half the world's gold supply, about 750,000 kilos. Surprisingly, however, the peak production period for gold from Australia's fields was 1901 to 1910, since which time production has greatly diminished.

From the 1870s Australia began to mine and export other minerals: copper, tin, silver, and above all, coal and iron ore. New discoveries of mineral deposits and the steady introduction of new technology led to a slow but steady growth in mineral exports, with the greatest boom coming after the Second World War. A comparison of Figure 5 with Figures 2 and 3 clearly reveals how, from the 1950s to the 1980s, the value of mineral exports as a percentage of total exports climbed steadily to equal pastoral and agricultural exports, reaching a peak of around 29 per cent in 1976. Although mineral exports have fluctuated somewhat since then, the addition of relative newcomers such as uranium and diamonds has ensured that mineral exports have maintained their importance to the Australian economy into the 1990s.

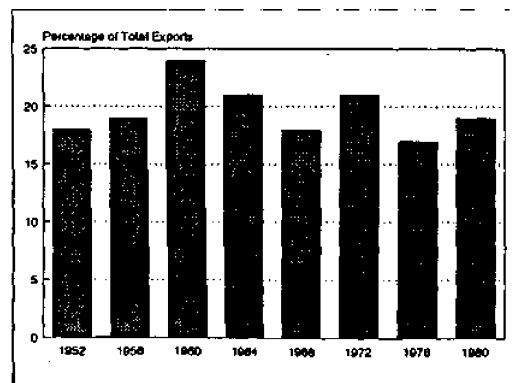
## Parti. Australia's Exports

### Questions 1-5

Read the passage headed 'Australia's Exports'. From the information in the passage, identify the five graphs below by writing the correct **Figure Number** in the box on the **Answer Sheet**. For example, if you think that the information in the graph in *Question 1* matches the facts connected with, say, Figure 2 in the reading passage, you would write the number **2** in the box on the **Answer Sheet**.



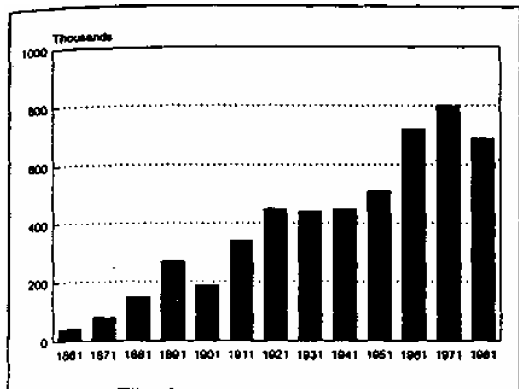
Question 1. Figure ?



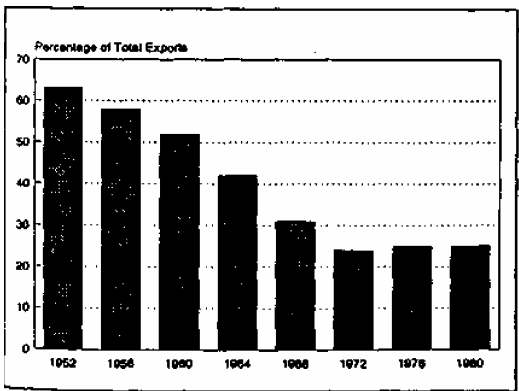
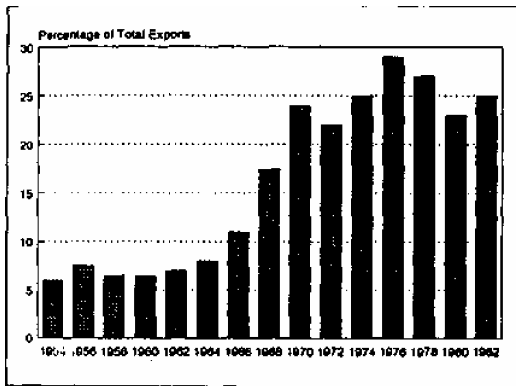
Question 2. Figure ?

part 1 continued

Question 3. Figure ?



Question 4. Figure ?



Question 5. Figure ?

## Part 2. Stricken Sea Needs Long-Term Solution

*Read the passage below and answer Questions 6 -16 on pages 32 to 33.*

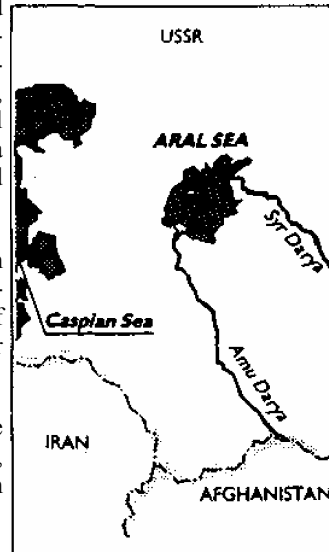
Twenty years ago, anglers might have stood on the Aral seabed, up to their hips in water, and fished for carp under the blazing sun of north-west Uzbekistan. Today they would have to drive 48 kilometres north across flat, grey, salt-scabbed earth to find the disappearing sea, and they would see a briny pool, receding toward a lifeless equilibrium.

This is — or was — the Aral Sea, once the fourth-largest inland body of water. Although it is far less severe in its immediate consequences than the catastrophic earthquake in Armenia, it is the Soviet Union's most mourned and debated ecological calamity. By siphoning off water to irrigate the cotton fields of Uzbekistan and neighbouring Turkmenia, Soviet developers have made sluggish sewers of the two rivers that feed the Aral Sea, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya.

Since 1960, the surface area of the sea has shrunk 40 per cent, leaving behind 26,000 square kilometres of salty, man-made desert, with unhappy consequences for the health, the economy, and even the climate in the vast Aral Sea basin. All this was obvious on a recent visit, said to be the first allowed into this closed region.

The high concentration of salt and farm chemicals in the rivers and underground water is blamed for high rates of stomach and liver disease, throat cancer and birth defects.

'A catastrophe of no lesser magnitude than Chernobyl,' wrote Sergei Zalygin, editor of the magazine *Nouy Mir*, in *Pravda* in June.



The Aral Sea has become a test of the Soviet Union's newly stated commitment to balancing short-term economic growth against the demands of the environment. Prominent writers and scientists who form the Committee

part 2 continued

to Save the Aral Sea say the sea can be salvaged only by strict measures to curtail the use of water, even if this means cutting back production of water-intensive crops such as cotton and rice. Others, including the officials responsible for water development, want to replenish the sea by reviving a controversial engineering scheme: tapping two Siberian rivers and diverting their water to Central Asia.

The area faces many problems, such as salt storms. From time to time, the northerly wind blows so violently, it whips up vast clouds of salty dust from the desiccated seabed, depositing grit on farms hundreds of kilometres away. Traces of Aral sand have been found as far away as Georgia and on the Soviet coast of the Arctic Sea. Without the moderating influence of the huge lake the summers have become hotter — by two or three degrees Celsius — and drier.

Another Aral Sea oddity has a peculiarly Soviet quality: the fish cannery at Muinak, built on what was then the southern shore to process the catch of the Aral Sea fishing fleet, is now landlocked. It is 48 kilometres from the water, and the commercial fishing catch has fallen to zero because of the high concentration of salt, fertilisers and pesticides. But to avoid closing the plant, the authorities fly in frozen fish at high cost from the Baltic Sea, 2,720 kilometres away.

The ruling Communist Party Politburo approved guidelines in September to reduce the depletion of the sea, mostly involving stricter conservation of water that irrigates cotton crops in Uzbekistan and Turkmenia. The measures are to include a reconstruction of the irrigation system, now consisting largely of leaky, unlined ditches. New collector canals are being built to recycle used irrigation water back to the sea.

Part 2. Stricken Sea Needs Long-Term Solution

*Questions 6-10*

Read the passage headed 'Stricken Sea Needs Long-Term Solution'. Answer the following questions by choosing the correct answer and writing the appropriate letter in the box on the Answer Sheet. The first one has been done as an example.

*Example:* The Aral Sea in the south-east of the Soviet Union has:

- (a) disappeared
- (b) diminished by 40 per cent
- (c) been contaminated by industrial pollution

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Ex    *b*

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- 6. The problems in the Aral Sea have been caused by:
  - (a) natural environmental changes
  - (b) man-made changes
  - (c) the Chernobyl nuclear disaster
  - (d) the Armenian earthquake
  
- 7. The Sea has shrunk because:
  - (a) high temperatures have caused increased evaporation
  - (b) the salt content has increased
  - (c) the sources of its water have been diverted
  
- 8. The rivers that formerly filled the Aral Sea have been:
  - (a) used to grow cotton
  - (b) diverted to Siberia
  - (c) polluted by industrial chemicals
  
- 9. The high rates of illnesses in the region have been blamed on:
  - (a) the Chernobyl nuclear disaster
  - (b) salt and farm chemicals in the rivers
  - (c) pollutants in the local fishing industry
  
- 10. Temperatures in the area have:
  - (a) risen by 2 or 3 degrees
  - (b) decreased by 2 or 3 degrees

Part 2 continued

*Questions 11 -16*

From the same reading passage, answer the following questions by writing **Correct** in the box on the **Answer Sheet** if the following statements are supported by information in the reading passage. Write **Incorrect** if the statements are not supported by the reading passage. The first one has been done as an example.

*Example:* The Soviet Union has no stated commitment to protecting the environment.

ex <i>Incorrect</i>
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11. Despite the problems of the region, there are no suggestions to reduce the use of water from the rivers feeding the Aral Sea.
12. One proposed solution to the problem would mean less production of cotton and rice in the region.
13. A fish cannery has had to be moved 48 kilometres in order to continue in operation.
14. Violent salty storms sometimes carry salt from the dry seabed to places many hundreds of kilometres away.
15. Government plans to solve the problems include rebuilding inefficient irrigation canals.
16. Government plans also include redirecting irrigation water to the Aral Sea so it is not depleted.

## Part 2. Stricken Sea Needs Long-Term Solution

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part 2 continued

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### Part3. The Heat Is On

#### Questions 17 - 20

Read the passage headed 'The Heat Is On' and the accompanying 'Calendar of Catastrophe'. Match the examples of global climatic change below to the five 'greenhouse predictions' in the passage by writing the number of the prediction in the box on the Answer Sheet. The first one has been done as an example.

*Example:* An iceberg more than twice the size of the Australian Capital Territory broke off Antarctica in 1987. It floated away, broke into three sections and is slowly melting. Prediction Number ?

ex	5
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17. The grain belts of the US and the Soviet Union suffered some of the worst droughts ever recorded during the last northern summer. Prediction Number ?
18. The four warmest years on record seem to have been in the 1980s (1980, 1981, 1983 and 1987). The globe appears to have warmed up an average of 0.5°C over the past century. Prediction Number ?
19. Drought has lingered over Africa's Sahel region for most of the past twenty years, and over India's vast central plateau for most of this decade. But the models suggest that monsoons may become more intense in the wet tropics. Prediction Number ?
20. The centre of 1988's Hurricane Gilbert, one of the most powerful storms in the Western hemisphere this century, was agreed to be of abnormally low pressure. Its most powerful gusts reached 320km/h as it hit Jamaica, Haiti, Venezuela, the Cayman Islands and Mexico. Prediction Number ?

part 3 continued

*Questions 21-25*

From the information in the 'Calendar of Catastrophe', complete the following table of climatic disasters. Write your answers in the boxes on the **Answer Sheet**. The first one has been done as an example.

Question	Date	Event	Country
Example	_____	Hurricane Joan	Nicaragua
ex	October 1988		
21	Sept. 1988	Monsoon rains	_____
22	_____	Earthquake in Armenia	USSR
23	_____	Massive mudslide	Papua New Guinea
24	May 1988	Landslides in Trabzon	_____
25	Oct. 1988	Typhoon Ruby	_____

#### Part 4. Towards Global Protection of the Atmosphere

*Read the passage below and answer Questions 26 - 34 on page 40.*

At the *International Conference on the Changing Atmosphere: Implications for Global Security*, held in Toronto from June 29 to 30, 1988, more than 300 scientists and policymakers from 48 countries recommended specific actions to reduce the impending crisis caused by pollution of the atmosphere. Working groups presented the scientific basis for concern about atmospheric changes — including climatic warming, ozone layer depletion, and acidification — and described the implications of these changes for global security, the world economy and the natural environment. Among the conference statement's 39 observations and proposals were the following recommendations:

- ☐ Governments, the United Nations and its specialised agencies, non-governmental organisations, industry, educational institutions and individuals should act immediately to counter the ongoing degradation of the atmosphere.
- ☐ The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer should be ratified immediately and revised in 1990 to ensure nearly complete elimination of emissions of fully halogenated CFCs by the year 2000. Additional measures to limit other ozone-destroying halocarbons should also be considered.
- ☐ Governments and other international organisations should initiate the development of a comprehensive global convention as a framework for protocols on the protection of the atmosphere, emphasising such key elements as the free international exchange of information and support of research and monitoring. Preparation for such a convention should be vigorously pursued at upcoming international workshops and policy conferences, with a view to having the principles and components of the con-

vention ready for consideration at the intergovernmental Conference on Sustainable Development in 1992. These Activities should in no way impede simultaneous national, bilateral and regional actions and agreements to deal with specific problems such as acidification and greenhouse gas emissions.

- ☐ In order to reduce the risks of global warming, energy policies must be designed to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and other trace gases. Stabilising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide is an imperative goal — currently estimated to require reductions of more than 50 per cent from present emission levels.
- ☐ An initial global goal should be to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 20 per cent of 1988 levels by the year 2005. About one-half of this reduction would be sought from energy-efficient improvements and other conservation measures and the other half from modifications in energy supplies. Clearly, the industrialised nations have a responsibility to lead the way, through both their national energy policies and their bilateral and multilateral assistance arrangements. Negotiations on ways to achieve this reduction should be initiated now.
- ☐ Targets for energy-efficiency and energy-supply improvements should be made. Challenging targets would be a 10 per cent improvement in both areas by the year 2005. A detailed study of the systems implications of these targets should also be made. Systems must be initiated to encourage, review and approve major new projects for energy efficiency.

part 4 continued

- ☐ Contributions towards achieving the energy-efficiency goal will vary from region to region; some countries have already demonstrated a capability for increasing efficiency by more than per cent a year for over a decade.
- ☐ The desired reduction in carbon dioxide emissions will also require switching to fuels that emit less carbon dioxide; reviewing strategies for the implementation of renewable energy, especially advanced biomass conversion technologies; and reviewing nuclear power. If safety, radioactive waste and nuclear weapons proliferation problems can be solved, nuclear power could play a role in lowering emissions of carbon dioxide.
- ☐ There must be vigorous application of existing technologies to reduce emissions of acidifying substances, other substances that are precursors of spheric ozone, and greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide.
- ☐ Products should be labelled to allow consumers to judge the extent and nature of atmospheric contamination arising from the manufacture and use of the product.
- ☐ The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to conduct continuing assessments of scientific results and to initiate government-to-government discussions of responses and strategies should be supported.
- ☐ Resources for research and monitoring efforts within the World Climate Programme, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, and the Human Response to Global Change Programme should be increased. It is particularly important to understand how climate changes on a regional scale are related to an overall global change of climate and to how the oceans affect global heat transport and the flux of greenhouse gases.
- ☐ Funding for research, development and energy should be significantly and technology transfer should be extended with particular emphasis on needs of developing countries.
- ☐ Funding for more extensive transfer and technical co-operation projects in coastal zone protection management should be expanded.
- ☐ Deforestation should be reduced and afforestation increased through proposals such as the establishment of a trust fund to provide adequate incentives to enable developing nations to manage their tropical forest resources sustainably.
- ☐ Technical cooperation projects to developing nations to participate in international mitigation efforts, including research and analysis related to the changing atmosphere should be developed and supported.
- ☐ Funding should be increased to non-governmental organisations for the establishment of environmental education programmes and public awareness campaigns that would aim at changing public values and behaviour with respect to the environment.
- ☐ Financial support should be provided for environmental education at all levels, and consideration should be given to establishing special units in university departments to address the issues of global change.

#### Part 4. Towards Global Protection of the Atmosphere

##### *Questions 26 - 34*

Read the passage headed 'Towards Global Protection of the Atmosphere'. If each statement below is a *correct summary* of one of the recommendations in the passage, write Correct in the box on the Answer Sheet. Write Incorrect if the statement is not a correct summary. The first one has been done as an example.

*Example:* Everyone from governments to individuals should act immediately to prevent atmospheric degradation from becoming worse.

Ex	Correct
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26. The Montreal Protocol should be accepted by all countries by 1992.
27. The Montreal Protocol should be accepted immediately.
28. Governments and other international organisations should begin to develop common policies for the protection of the atmosphere as soon as possible.
29. We should aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through energy-efficiency and energy-supply improvements by 10 per cent by the year 2005.
30. A worldwide goal of two per cent a year in increasing energy efficiency should be established immediately.
31. If the problems of safety, radioactive waste and the spread of nuclear weapons can be solved, nuclear power may in future be used to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide.
32. Products should be labelled so that consumers can judge if the product is damaging to the atmosphere.
33. Money should be paid to developing nations to help them to find ways to reduce the number of trees they cut down and to encourage them to preserve and increase their forests.
34. Money should be paid to community organisations to help them to change people's opinions about the environment.

This is the end of the reading test